

YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN AND ADJACENT COAL AREAS LEVEL B STUDY

LAND CONSERVATION MEASURES ON NONFEDERAL LANDS IN MONTANA

Protection of nonfederal lands from wind and water erosion, while maintaining sustained beneficial use, is the prime goal of the Soil Conservation Service. There are 25,756,000 acres of nonfederal lands in Montana's share of the study area. Of these acres, 15,765,000 acres, or 61 percent, were adequately protected and 9,991,000 acres, or 39 percent, needed additional protection measures according to the 1975 SCS reports. About 52 percent of these acres need management only, while 48 percent need a combination of management, vegetative, and mechanical measures.

The ad hoc study group projected that under ongoing programs of land treatment about 2,029,000 additional acres would be adequately treated by 1985, leaving 7,962,000 acres yet to be treated. By the year 2000, about 3,976,000 of the acres needing treatment in 1975 would be adequately treated, leaving 6,015,000 acres still needing treatment. Cost of land treatment under ongoing programs is projected to total \$44,025,000 by 1985 and \$76,249,000 by 2000. If the decision were made to complete the land treatment needs by 1985, it would cost an additional \$156,165,000 in accelerated agency and private expenditures. If the decision were made to complete all land treatment by year 2000, it would require about \$120,343,000 accelerated investment above ongoing programs.

The following tables show the summary of 1975 land treatment status by planning area by land use for all areas in the basin. A more detailed report is being prepared by the ad hoc group.

TABLE 1A--LAND CONSERVATION ON NONFEDERAL LAND IN MONTANA
UPPER YELLOWSTONE SUBAREA
YELLOWSTONE BASIN AND ADJACENT COAL AREA LEVEL B STUDY

Land Use	Nonfederal Area	1975 Treatment Status	
		Adequately Protected	Needing Treatment
		Acres	
Irrigated cropland	213,000	28,000	185,000
Nonirrigated cropland	518,000	256,000	262,000
Irrigated pasture	53,000	17,000	36,000
Nonirrigated pasture	71,000	26,000	45,000
Range	2,801,000	2,023,000	778,000
Commercial forest	180,000	157,000	23,000
Noncommercial forest	592,000	505,000	87,000
Other land	27,000	27,000	-0-
TOTAL	4,455,000	3,039,000	1,416,000

TABLE 1B--LAND CONSERVATION ON NONFEDERAL LAND IN MONTANA
BIG HORN-CLARKS FORK SUBAREA
YELLOWSTONE BASIN AND ADJACENT COAL AREA LEVEL B STUDY

Land Use	Nonfederal Area	1975 Treatment Status	
		Adequately Protected	Needing Treatment
	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Acres		
Irrigated cropland	134,000	17,000	117,000
Nonirrigated cropland	165,000	90,000	75,000
Irrigated pasture	29,000	25,000	4,000
Nonirrigated pasture	34,000	25,000	9,000
Range	2,319,000	1,292,000	1,027,000
Commercial forest	20,000	5,000	15,000
Noncommercial forest	137,000	110,000	27,000
Other land	27,000	27,000	-0-
TOTAL	2,865,000	1,591,000	1,274,000

TABLE 1C--LAND CONSERVATION ON NONFEDERAL LAND IN MONTANA
TONGUE AND POWDER RIVER SUBAREA
YELLOWSTONE BASIN AND ADJACENT COAL AREA LEVEL B STUDY

Land Use	Nonfederal Area	1975 Treatment Status	
		Adequately Protected	Needing Treatment
	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Acres		
Irrigated cropland	68,000	19,000	49,000
Nonirrigated cropland	161,000	71,000	90,000
Irrigated pasture	4,000	1,000	3,000
Nonirrigated pasture	104,000	34,000	70,000
Range	3,324,000	1,455,000	1,869,000
Commercial forest	28,000	28,000	-0-
Noncommercial forest	295,000	251,000	44,000
Other land	17,000	17,000	-0-
TOTAL	4,001,000	1,876,000	2,125,000

TABLE 1D--LAND CONSERVATION ON NONFEDERAL LAND IN MONTANA
 LOWER YELLOWSTONE SUBAREA
 YELLOWSTONE BASIN AND ADJACENT COAL AREA LEVEL B STUDY

Land Use	Nonfederal Area	1975 Treatment Status	
		Adequately Protected	Needing Treatment
		Acres	
Irrigated cropland	195,000	29,000	166,000
Nonirrigated cropland	2,033,000	855,000	1,178,000
Irrigated pasture	39,000	6,000	33,000
Nonirrigated pasture	345,000	287,000	58,000
Range	10,972,000	7,609,000	3,363,000
Commercial forest	31,000	25,000	6,000
Noncommercial forest	687,000	315,000	372,000
Other land	133,000	133,000	-0-
TOTAL	14,435,000	9,259,000	5,176,000

TABLE 1E--LAND CONSERVATION ON NONFEDERAL LAND IN MONTANA
 TOTAL MONTANA STUDY AREA
 YELLOWSTONE BASIN AND ADJACENT COAL AREA LEVEL B STUDY

Land Use	Nonfederal Area	1975 Treatment Status	
		Adequately Protected	Needing Treatment
		Acres	
Irrigated cropland	610,000	93,000	517,000
Nonirrigated cropland	2,877,000	1,272,000	1,605,000
Irrigated pasture	125,000	49,000	76,000
Nonirrigated pasture	554,000	372,000	182,000
Range	19,416,000	12,379,000	7,037,000
Commercial forest	259,000	215,000	44,000
Noncommercial forest	1,711,000	1,181,000	530,000
Other land	204,000	204,000	-0-
TOTAL	25,756,000	15,765,000	9,991,000

